

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing crystalline maltitol, comprising the steps of feeding a first maltitol aqueous solution to a kneader so as to knead and cool it, then feeding a second maltitol aqueous solution having a higher solid content than that of the first maltitol aqueous solution to the kneader and further kneading and cooling the resulting mixture so as to produce a plastic mass, cooling the produced plastic mass so as to solidify it, and pulverizing the solidified mass.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first maltitol aqueous solution has a solid content of 70 to 97 wt%, and the second maltitol aqueous solution has a solid content of 97.5 to 99.5 wt%.

3. A method for producing crystalline maltitol, comprising the steps of feeding a maltitol aqueous solution to a kneader so as to knead and cool it, then adding water to the kneader and further kneading and cooling the mixture so as to produce a plastic mass, cooling the produced plastic mass so as to solidify it, and pulverizing the solidified mass.

25

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the maltitol aqueous solution has a solid content of 97.5 to 99.5 wt%.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein water is added several times.

30

6. The method of claim 1 or 3, wherein the kneader is a continuous kneading-extruding machine having a cooler.

35